vital installations and areas, including Mumbai, adjacent regions and installations of ONGC, is carried out from time to time.

Nothing has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past suggesting complicity of elements in the Government agencies or the local fishermen in terrorist activities in this region.

The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard undertake regular surveillance and patrolling in coordination with other Government agencies like Customs and the State Police as deterrence against potential terrorist activity. In the areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra coast a scheme has also been implemented for joint patrolling in the sea close to the coast by the State/UT police in association with the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. All necessary steps are taken to maintain security against any untoward terror attack.

Landmines and booby traps in Rajasthan

905. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether landmines and booby traps were laid in the paths, villages and fields, on 2040 km. border with Pakistan, in Rajasthan resulting in loss of human lives and livestock;

(b) if so, the number of people killed, injured and loss of cattle, during the task of demining these landmines and traps, till date, in Rajasthan;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure completion of demining operation;

(d) the total amount of compensation to be paid to the farmers;

(e) how much of the said amount has been paid so far and whether any claims are still outstanding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Mines were laid as per operational plans dictated by need during OP PARAKRAM. However, no landmines or booby traps were laid without marking. Adequate measures were taken to prevent human casualties due to mine accidents. The total fatal civilian casualties due to landmine accidents reported so far are 39 and non-fatal casualties 122 in the State of Rajasthan. Demining operations began in November 2002 and were completed in March 2004. Demining operations were conducted meticulously using manual and mechanical methods. Compensation for crop and rental damage due to be paid to the farmers of Rajasthan State

was assessed at approximately Rs. 103.38 crore. So far, approximately Rs. 102.90 crore has been paid.

Display of medals by families of deceased gallantry awardees during RD parade

906. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Defence would consider a proposal that upon death of Victoria Cross, PVC and other gallantry award winners, their families may be allowed to participate in Republic Day Parade, wearing the medals, so that these stories of valour do not fade away upon the death or passing away of these brave men and women?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): There are no restrictions on the participation of the families of gallantry award winners in the Republic Day Celebrations. However, there is no provision for wearing of medals by the families of gallantry awardees.

Indo-China joint military exercise

†907. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of improvement in Indo-China relations recently, both the countries have agreed for joint military exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in which areas joint military exercise is being considered upon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the visit of Raksha Mantri (Pranab Mukherjee) to China from 28th May 2006 to 2nd June 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and China for exchanges and cooperation in the field of defence. The MoU, *inter alia*, provides that both sides will endeavour to hold joint military exercises and/or training programmes in the fields of search and rescue, anti-piracy, counter-terrorism and other areas of mutual interest.

Scrapping of women special entry scheme

908. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided in 2005 to scrap

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.